

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Manipulation~~ The apparatus according to ~~Claim 8~~ claim 22, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it also comprises, in an external peripheral area at the bottom of the chamber (1), means (11) of recovering heavy gas flowing along the chamber from top to bottom.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Manipulation~~ The apparatus according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 22, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the means of establishing a negative pressure function continuously.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Manipulation~~ The apparatus according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 22, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the said control-means apparatus comprise a stop valve (6) arranged in a pipe (5) connecting the heavy gas source (4) and the cavity (2) of the chamber, and a control element (7) for the valve which is locked mechanically in the ~~above-mentioned~~ stopped state first position when the ~~above-mentioned~~ closure means (3) ~~are~~ is in the open position and which mechanically

locks the closure means (3) in the closed position when ~~it is~~
~~in a release state~~ the second position.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Manipulation~~ The apparatus
according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 22, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein
the said control ~~means~~ apparatus comprise a stop valve (6)
arranged in a pipe (5) connecting the heavy gas source (4) and
the cavity (2) of the chamber, and a control member which
automatically locks the valve in ~~the~~ a stopped state when it
detects an output signal from the closure means outside ~~their~~
~~closure~~ said closed position and which automatically locks the
closure means in the closed position when the valve is in a
release state.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Manipulation~~ The apparatus
according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 22, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein
the said control ~~means~~ comprise apparatus has a stop valve (6)
arranged in a pipe (5) connecting the heavy gas source (4) and
the cavity (2) of the chamber, and a control member which
automatically locks the valve in ~~the~~ a stopped state when it
detects an output signal from ~~a~~ the closure means outside
~~their closure~~ the closed position and which is capable of
controlling the valve in ~~the~~ a release state when the closure
means are in the closed position.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Manipulation~~ The apparatus according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 22, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the closure means consist of a cover (3) sliding in a runner (15) provided at the upward opening of the chamber (1).

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Manipulation~~ The apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the said recovery means comprise a trough (18) open upwards and a support plate (8) for the chamber (1) which is supported ~~essentially~~ substantially in the trough at a distance therefrom.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Manipulation~~ The apparatus according to Claim 16, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the trough has negative pressure means which act below the support plate and suck the heavy gas recovered by the trough.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to ~~claim~~ to claim 16, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it also comprises, alongside the trough (11) provided with a support plate (8) for the chamber (1), at least one supplementary trough (36) each provided with a support plate (37) for another chamber and/or for a body carrying heavier than air gas.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Manipulation~~ The apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the means of establishing a negative pressure function continuously.

Claims 20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) An apparatus for manipulating heavier than air gas, comprising:

- a chamber (1) having a closable cavity (2),
- a source of heavy gas (4) which communicates with the chamber and allows introduction of the heavy gas into the cavity,
- control apparatus (6, 7) movable between a first position and a second position to respectively close and open communication between the source (4) and the cavity (2) of the chamber,

wherein the chamber (1) comprises an upward opening and closure means (3) movable between a closed position in which the upward opening is closed and an open position in which the upward opening is left open,

wherein when the control apparatus (6, 7) is moved to the first position closing said communication, the closure means (3) can be moved to the open position, and when the control apparatus (6, 7) is moved to the second position

opening said communication, the closure means (3) when in the closed position cannot be moved to the open position,

a negative pressure source (35) and means of establishing a negative pressure (17) in a peripheral area at the top of the chamber, which are supplied by the negative pressure source and which suck heavy gas escaping from the chamber (1) through the top into a confined enclosure,

wherein the means of establishing a negative pressure comprise a frame (17) formed by a hollow profile which is supported by the chamber at the periphery of its upward opening and which, on three sides (21-23), 23), overhangs part of the cavity (2) of the chamber and therefore the cover (3) in the closed position, whilst, on a fourth side (25), it is subjacent to a cover in the closed position, and in that the said hollow profiled section is provided, facing the cover in the closed position, with suction openings (24, 28), whilst it is in communication with the said source of negative pressure through an appropriate pipe (30).

23. (New) Apparatus for manipulating heavier than air gas, comprising

- a chamber (1) having a closable cavity (2),
- an upward opening of said chamber (1) with a closure (3) capable of being moved between a closed position

in which the upward opening is closed and an open position in which the upward opening is left open,

- a source of heavy gas (4) which communicates with the chamber to allow introduction of the heavy gas into the cavity (2),

- a negative pressure source (35) and a negative pressure means for establishing a negative pressure (17) in a peripheral area at the top of said chamber (1), supplied by said negative pressure source (35), which negative pressure means (17) sucks heavy gas escaping from the chamber (1) through the top into a confined enclosure,

- control apparatus (6, 7) movable between a first position and a second position to respectively close and open communication between the source (4) and the cavity (2) of the chamber,

- wherein the chamber (1) comprises an upward opening and closure means (3) movable between a closed position in which the upward opening is closed and an open position in which the opening is left open, and

- wherein when the control apparatus (6, 7) is moved to the first position closing said communication, the closure means (3) can be moved to the open position, and when the control apparatus (6, 7) is moved to the second position

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opening said communication, the closure means (3) when in the closed position cannot be moved to the open position